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Second Preliminary Amendment  
Divisional of USSN 09/917,897

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

#### **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for detecting ~~measuring~~ protease in a biological sample which comprises the steps of:
  - (1) ~~contacting~~ ~~bringing~~ one of two substantially continuous slices of a biological sample ~~into contact~~ with a thin membrane ~~that~~ ~~which~~ comprises a protease substrate together with a ~~crosslinking~~ ~~hardening~~ agent and is formed on a surface of a support;
  - (2) detecting ~~at~~ the trace of digestion formed on the thin membrane by the action of protease; and
  - (3) comparing the trace of digestion with a histopathological preparation prepared from the other slice.
- 3.-18. (Canceled)
19. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the protease substrate is selected from the group consisting of collagen, gelatin, proteoglycan, fibronectin, laminin, elastin, and casein.
20. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the biological sample is isolated or collected from a patient.
21. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said detecting is performed by using a thin membrane containing one or more substances selected from the group consisting of